THE BRITISH APOLLO,

OR,

Curious AMUSEMENTS FOR THE INGENIOUS.

To which are Added the most

Material OCCURENCES Foreign and Domestick.

Performed by some of the Society of GENTLEMEN, that were Concerned in the First and Second VOLUMES. With the Assistance of other Learned PERSONS.

VOL. III

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BIBLIOTHECA POMPEIANA

THE PREFACE

HE Reader having perhaps already perused all or most part of the Papers of this Third Volume as they came out, it would be superfluous now to tell him what it contains; besides that the Index will shew this better than the Preface can. We shall only inform him, that we have always carefully avoided repeating any Thing that we had treated of before, unless either when the Subject itself required to be set in a clearer Light, or when we were urged to it by the Importunity of our Querists; or if we have sometimes done it through Forgetfullness, we hope that will be easily excused, considering how much such a vast Variety must needs burthen the Memory every Day more and more. The Truth is, the Importunity of our Querists, especially such as called themselves our Subscribers, who therefore claimed a Preference from us before others, having obliged us sometimes to answer Questions that had been answered before, and often to insert such as far less deserved a Place in our Papers than Thousands of others from all Parts of England, *which for want of Room we have been forced wholly to suppress. We have been lately induced to alter our first Design, and not to publish this Paper any longer by Subscription, but to let it try its Fortune in the World as others do. The general Encouragement it has already met with forbids us to doubt whether this Alteration may not somewhat damp its Success; but we rather have Reason to expect still greater Encouragement, since we have this Advantage by it, that we are now free from all Temptations of Partiality,*

tiality, and are at Liberty to prefer those Questions that we find most rational and ingenious, and rather to study how to entertain our curious Reader, than how to silence the Clamour of an Importunate Subscriber,

In a Work of this Nature wherein controverted Questions in Divinity have so great a Part, we could never propose to ourselves the Satisfaction of pleasing all. We did indeed presume, that if in the Decision of Questions we only nakedly proposed our Opinions with the Reasons of them, and abstained from all severe Censures upon those that maintain the contrary, we should act with as much Impartiality as the Subject would permit, and so avoid giving any reasonable Cause of Offence. But though we have all along strictly observed this Rule, and could by no Insults and Scurrilities of our Adversaries be provoked to swerve from it, yet we have not had the good Fortune to avoid the Censure of being party Writers, especially since the Jealousy of both Parties has of late grown so high; and under this Notion several of our Subscribers and Correspondents have forsaken us. What we have to say by Way of Apology to such is only this, that since there is scarce any Point in Divinity, which has not one Time or other been the Subject of Dispute amongst the several Sects in Religion, we had no other Way left for us to avoid giving just Offence, but either to be wholly silent, or to run the Risque of contradicting some of them, with this Caution that all our Opinions and Decisions be free from the least Mixture of Passion or Bitterness.

The INDEX *to the* Third Volume *of the* British Apollo,
Which contains *Answers* to *Questions* in most *Arts* and *Sciences*.

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FINIS.